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DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EAP/RSP/TC, EAP/PA, EAP/PD -
ROBERT PALLADINO
DEPARTMENT PASS AIT/WASHINGTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM, G-8
SUMMIT

Summary: While the major Taipei dailies quickly shifted their news coverage from the blasts in London back to local politics July 9-11, several newspapers nonetheless continued to editorialize on the global war on terrorism as well as its connection to the G-8 Summit. A centrist "China Times" editorial said last Thursday's terrorist attacks in London will re-direct the discussion of global issues in the G-8 summit; in addition, the editorial said it is necessary to review the U.S.-led war on terrorism. A separate "China Times" commentary noted that both the United States and Britain claim that they have been playing the role of "liberator" in the Islamic world over the past three years, but in reality, they are acting as powerful "suppressors." A pro-unification "United Daily News" editorial called on the United States and Britain to review the sources of clashes between civilizations and ethnic confrontations so as to prevent having innocent people all over the world suffer the consequences of their unilateral actions. An editorial in the limited-circulation, conservative, pro-unification, English-language "China Post" weighed in on the topic of the G-8 Summit by saying with mainland China and India missing, the meeting was in essence devoid of substance and achievement. End summary.

1. Global War on Terrorism

A) "Terrorist Attacks in London Will Re-direct the
[Discussion of] Global Issues"

The centrist, pro-status quo "China Times"
[circulation: 600,000] editorialized (7/9):

". In the wake of [last Thursday's] terrorist blasts in London, the G-8 Summit, whose focus originally fell on Africa and environmental issues, will inevitably move toward a discussion of anti-terrorism issues. Terrorism is indeed the most serious issue in the international community, but the ways currently employed to handle it, as represented by the United States, have already proven to be full of drawbacks and thus definitely need to be reviewed. .

"Nonetheless, since the September 11 terrorist attacks happened in New York, the threats posed by terrorism to human beings have entered a new stage. The blasts in London on July 7 were in fact a new turning point that causes the public to realize that they need [new] anti-terrorism policies that can better cope with terrorism. But where [to find these new policies] and what the new policies are -- is after all a common challenge that the world must face together, including Taiwan."

B) "Terrorists under Every Rock"

Commentator Nan Fang Shuo noted in the "Weekly Review" column of the centrist, pro-status quo "China Times" [circulation: 600,000] (7/11):

". As a result, the focus of the United States' and Britain's war on terrorism, as well as those means adopted to fight terrorism over the past three years, have now come to a stage that can hardly continue. Over the past three years, the war on terrorism [headed by the United States and Britain] has mainly relied on using military forces, suppressive rule of terror, and global monitoring and surveillance, [and] even torture to exact confessions, in the hope to subdue the Islamic world. But now, the 'liberators,' the roles that the United States and Britain claim that they have been playing, is in reality more powerful 'suppressors.' The U.S. military occupied Afghanistan and Iraq and did whatever pleased them. It has arrested some 65,000 people there just in order to suppress them and obtain anti-terrorism intelligence. The most serious problem is the prisoner abuse case that has yet to be concluded. 'Amnesty International' Director William

Schulz has thus clearly criticized the case as a new type of `Gulag Archipelago. .'

"The war on terrorism has now entered an anti-reversion stage. The public views in the United States, Europe and the world are changing fast. The wars of resistance in Afghanistan and Iraq are getting more active, and many Islamic international soldiers have crossed the borders to join the war [against the coalition forces] and have brought along with them new combat technology. The war on terrorism has, after a period of time . moved from the edge to the center.

"In the beginning of the war on terrorism, the United States and Britain, to create a sense of crisis and to publicize their actions, invented a slogan that said `There are terrorists under every rock.' But after three years, [it seems] there are more and more terrorists. The blasts in London seem to indicate that the slogan has become a reality, and London is a starting point of this `self-fulfilling prophesy.'"

C) "Revenge of Terrorism and War on Terrorism"

The conservative, pro-unification "United Daily News" [circulation: 600,000] commented in an editorial (7/9):

". In the wake of the September 11 incident that took place four years ago, almost the entire world joined together to echo and participate in the U.S.-led war on terrorism. But the 9-11 incident dealt a serious blow to the United States' `centralism,' and the various militarily expansive movements conducted by the Bush administration afterwards in an attempt to play the role of leader of the world's fight against terrorism have been viewed as an unscrupulous demonstration of U.S. hegemonic power. In the face of the confrontations between superpowers like the United States and Britain and the Islamic world, the international community has gradually responded with different interpretations and public views. Over the past four years, the United States have moved from the role of a victim of the 9-11 incident to a country whose international image is deteriorating. The United States' wars against Afghanistan and Iraq are neither justifiable nor convincingly reasonable, and they have failed to win strong support from even Americans. .

"When the United States and Britain review the reasons why their anti-terrorism strategies have failed, perhaps they should also reflect on the sources of clashes between civilizations and ethnic confrontations so as to prevent having innocent people all over the world jointly suffer the consequences of unilateral actions of the bigger countries."

12. G-8 Summit

"G-8 in Transition"

The conservative, pro-unification, English-language "China Post" [circulation: 30,000] editorialized (7/9):

". So, the G-8 is changing in nature and substance. There's nothing wrong about the change, because the high-level gathering should discuss urgent matters facing the world today. It should be the stage of the world's most important players.

"But something is missing. Mainland China, the world's most populous nation and the seventh largest economy, is absent. So is India, an emerging economy and the world's second most populous country. The former wields clout - political, military, economic - second only to the United States. Any discussion at the summit on economic and political issues would not make practical sense without mainland China participating. .

"So, this week's G-8 summit was devoid of substance. The meeting, in which the mainland watched on sidelines, achieved little, as usual."

KEEGAN